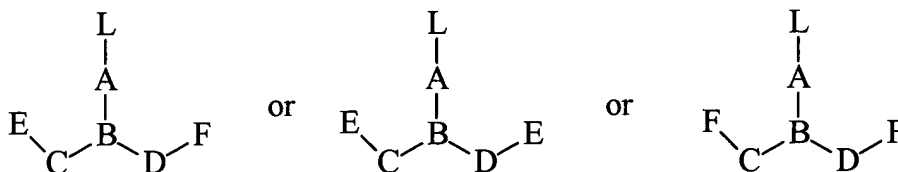


delete "claim 21" and substitute

--claim 37-- therefor.

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--~~37~~. (New) A compound having one of the following formulas:



wherein:

L is $\text{R}^{12}(\text{R}^{13})_a$; wherein:

R^{12} is hydrogen, hydroxy, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)$ alkanoyl, a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, an aromatic moiety, a DNA intercalator, a nucleobase-binding group, a heterocyclic moiety, a reporter ligand, or a conjugate and at least one of R^{12} is a naturally occurring nucleobase, a non-naturally occurring nucleobase, a DNA intercalator, or a nucleobase-binding group;

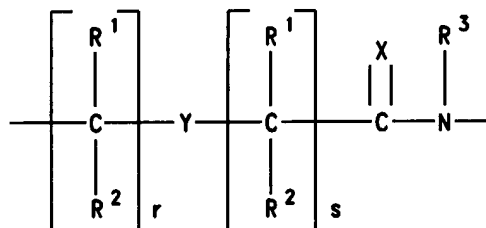
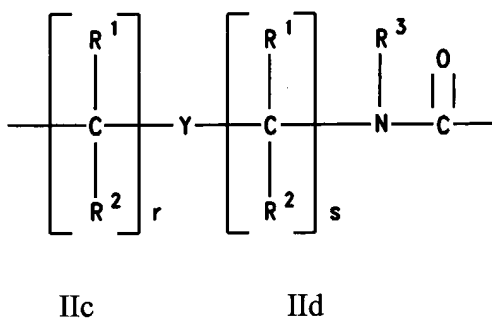
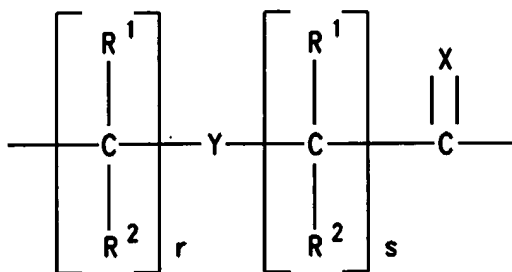
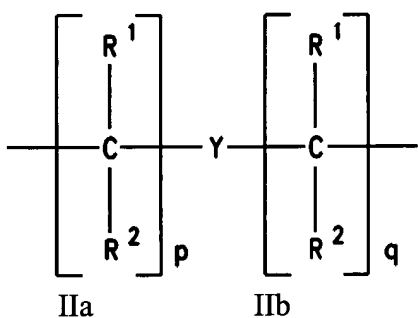
 R^{13} is a conjugate; and

a is 0 or 1;

A and B are selected such that:

(a) A is a group of formula (IIa), (IIb) or (IIc) and B is N or R³N⁺; or

(b) A is a group of formula (IIId) and B is CH;



where:

X is O, S, Se, NR³, CH₂ or C(CH₃)₂;

Y is a single bond, O, S or NR⁴;

p and q independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

r and s independently are zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkoxy-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino, halogen or a conjugate;

C is $(CR^6R^7)_y$;

D is $(CR^6R^7)_z$; wherein:

R^6 and R^7 independently are hydrogen, a side chain of a naturally occurring alpha amino acid, (C_2-C_6) alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_1-C_6) alkylthio, a conjugate, NR^3R^4 and SR^5 or R^6 and R^7 taken together complete an alicyclic or heterocyclic system;

R^3 and R^4 independently are hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted (C_1-C_4) alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio or amino; and R^5 is hydrogen, a conjugate, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, hydroxy-, alkoxy-, or alkylthio- substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

each of y and z is zero or an integer from 1 to 10, the sum $y + z$ being greater than 2 but not more than 10;

E independently is $COOH$, $CSOH$, $SOOH$, SO_2OH or an activated or protected derivative thereof;

F independently is NHR^3 or $NPgR^3$, where Pg is an amino protecting group; and

at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^{12} , and R^{13} is a conjugate wherein said conjugate is a reporter enzyme, a reporter molecule, a steroid, a carbohydrate, a terpene, a peptide, a protein, an aromatic lipophilic molecule, a non aromatic lipophilic molecule, a phospholipid, an intercalator, a cell receptor binding molecule, a crosslinking agent, a water soluble